

Don't Just Admonish the Accused – Address the Affliction

Anne Arundel Establishes Juvenile Drug Court

With the growing concern over rehabilitation versus warehousing, coupled with the escalating substance abuse problems, many in the criminal justice arena are exploring alternative corrections options. One such option is Drug Court. Individuals involved in Drug Court have their sentences deferred while they complete a substance abuse program. If they are unsuccessful in the program, the judge then imposes a sentence.

Several jurisdictions have established Juvenile Drug Courts to address the problem of juvenile substance abuse and its effect on juvenile delinquency and other juvenile issues. Talbot and Harford Counties and Baltimore City have all implemented Juvenile Drug Courts. Baltimore and Howard Counties are still in the planning stages.

During his last days as the Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, the Honorable Clayton Greene, Jr. announced the implementation of the Juvenile Drug Court in that jurisdiction. Plans

continued on p. 8



*Anne Arundel County Circuit Courthouse
photo by Doug Hofstedt*

Harford County Generous Jurors Program

Generosity Is the Key

The Circuit Court for Harford County has wholeheartedly incorporated the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child" into its philosophy of teamwork. In April 1999, the collaborative efforts of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the Harford

County Government launched the Generous Jurors Program.

This innovative program enlisted the support of the Harford County residents selected for jury duty to lend a helping hand. Jurors are given the option of donating their \$20 stipend for jury duty to Harford County's Foster Care Program. Janet Henderson, Jury Commissioner, advises that all donations go directly to the children to provide for special amenities and to enhance foster care programs in Harford County. At least

continued on p. 2

What's in a Name?	2
Pro Arp in Baltimore County	3
Joint Meeting on DV Issues	3
Pro Se Demographics	5
FCCIP Update	6
New Family Faces	9
Around Maryland	10
Using Volunteers	11

What's in a Name?



Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, Executive Director

I have never been more impressed with the “power of naming” than when impending parenthood provided me the opportunity to name my children. It is an awesome responsibility to sift through the multitudinous options (Hazel, Esmeralda, Junipero, Rufus T. Firefly, etc.) and realize your choice could imbue your child with self-confidence, or saddle him or her with a lifetime of torment.

And when you do select a name, people have no qualms telling you exactly what they think about it. It is always a visceral reaction. On both occasions (I have a daughter, Sofia Marta, and a son, Daniel Amadis), my husband and I resisted the temptation to tell friends and family of our name selections until after the birth of the child—presuming that folks were less likely to poke fun at the name once there was an actual baby attached to it. Nothing can give a name the “kiss of death” faster than a well-meaning relative making a thoughtless joke.

So likewise, when it came time to rename the Family Services Program, we entered into it with trepidation. I canvassed program staff for ideas and submitted a list to State Court Administrator, Frank Broccolina who made the ultimate selection. There were no strong favorites among any of us. What our new name acknowledges, however, is that we have taken on the substantive task of shepherding the development of our family law system in Maryland. No longer a temporary, grant-funded “program” with a staff of one, the **Department of Family Administration**, as we are now called, is a substantive entity with real presence and plenty of responsibility. For those of you who have worried about the future of the family division grants and grant-funded positions, relax—family court reform in Maryland is here to stay.

Generosity Is the Key, cont. from p. 1

one other jurisdiction, Howard County, has a similar program which has raised an average of \$746 per month for foster children since it began in 1996.

Since the Harford County program's inception, Janet advises, “We've been thrilled with the results.” The program averages approximately \$300 per day, grossing nearly \$100,000 from April 1999 to December 2001.

The program has assisted with purchasing various items and services for children in the foster care program, specifically: Christmas and birthday gifts, band uniforms, transportation to school activities, clothing, school supplies, bedroom furniture, therapeutic horseback riding and camp memberships.

Harford County's Generous Jurors Program is to be commended for its enormous efforts and apparent success

in assisting with the ever-present problem of growing needs and limited resources.

The Administrative Office of the Courts salutes Harford County's commitment to service and generosity. For more information about the Generous Jurors Program, contact Administrative Judge, Honorable William O. Carr at 410-879-2000.



Expanding Access for DV Victims

POARP Opens in Baltimore County

The Protective Order Advocacy & Representation Project (POARP), sponsored and created by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in 1996, provides legal assistance to victims of domestic violence seeking ex parte and civil protective orders. *The ultimate goal of the program is to ensure victims of domestic violence the greatest and most expeditious protection from abuse that the law can provide.* The AOC has worked with the House of Ruth, Inc. and the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. since the inception of the project, which began as a pilot project in Baltimore City and has since expanded into Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, respectively. Since 1996, the project has served over 5,000 victims of domestic violence within these three jurisdictions who would otherwise not have benefit-

ted from legal representation and dedicated support services.

Originally funded through a S*T*O*P* Violence Against Women grant, the Maryland Judiciary has been successful in obtaining continuation funding from the state to sustain each of these established projects, thus utilizing S*T*O*P* grant funding to establish replication projects. Most recently, a S*T*O*P* grant was awarded to expand the POARP project into Baltimore County Circuit Court. The Baltimore County POARP office opened in April, 2002 and provides advocacy and legal representation, free of charge, to victims of domestic violence seeking protection. For further information regarding the Baltimore County Circuit Court POARP project, feel free to contact their office directly at 410-887-3162 or 410-887-3163.



Identifying Families Who Are Experiencing Domestic Violence

On February 26, 2002, a joint meeting was held between the Family Support Services Coordinators and the Local Family Violence Coordinating Council Coordinators (LFVCC). The meeting was initiated to permit the LFVCCs to familiarize themselves with the circuit court's family divisions and family services programs. Family Support Services Coordinators were likewise able to network with the individuals responsible for staffing the family violence coordinating council within their jurisdiction.

After an overview of the Family Violence Council, the responsibilities of the local family violence coordinating councils, and the family divisions, attendees were asked to break out into five geographical regions to discuss domestic violence-related issues specific to their locality. Priorities were identified within the regional groups in an effort to enhance the response to families of domestic violence who are entering the court for services. Included within the priorities are: training for court personnel on the dynamics of domestic violence; developing a screening tool for the court to use in identifying families who are experiencing domestic violence and would not be appropriate for mediation; and developing a packet of material for individuals entering the court who have been identified as domestic violence victims including resource information and safety planning.

An action plan for accomplishing the priorities identified within this forum will be developed by Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director of the Family Violence Council and Debra Bright, Family Services Administrator at the AOC. They will work with coordinators to ensure that the recommendations are implemented. For more information, please contact Debra Bright at 410-260-1428.

Family Law Committee Update

The Family Law Committee and its subcommittees have been busy over the last several months, reviewing pending legislation and other issues relating to the administration of the family divisions and family services programs. Key initiatives the committee has undertaken are listed below:

- **Family Policy Commission.** At the request of Chief Judge Bell, the committee met with Professor Barbara Babb, of the University of Baltimore Center for Families, Children & the Courts, to review a proposal for a Family Policy Commission. The proposal, which she developed with others, would serve as an inter-branch forum for the development of a statewide family policy that would guide all branches of government and all agencies serving families. The committee was supportive of the proposal and communicated that support to Chief Judge Bell.
- **Performance Standards and Measures.** The Family Law Committee took up the project of finalizing approval of the *Performance Standards and Measures*. The Chair, Judge Larnzell Martin, Jr., presented the document at a meeting of the Conference of Circuit Judges. The Conference reviewed the document and voted, at its March 18 meeting, to adopt the *Standards*. The Family Law Committee will now undertake the work of distributing and implementing the *Standards* to evaluate family division performance.
- **Guardianship Projects.** Judge Kathleen Cox (Circuit Court for Baltimore County) is working with Pamela Ortiz to draft some tools to assist persons appointed as guardians of the person and guardians of the property. They will also be drafting guardianship forms for review by the Committee.

that certain provisions be implemented administratively by DJJ. They suggested Judge Caroom bring the portions requiring statutory change to the Committee's attention in Fall, 2002 when 2003 Legislative proposals are considered.

- **Forms Revision.** The Committee continues to review recommended or requested changes to the Domestic Relations Forms.

Child Support Subcommittee

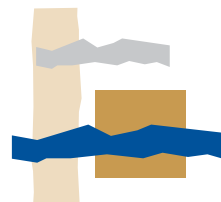
The Child Support Subcommittee has undertaken a survey of all jurisdictions on child support enforcement practices as well as a review of enforcement innovations in other states. The Subcommittee has begun exploring the possible increased use of criminal nonsupport and criminal contempt to render enforcement efforts more effective. At its meeting on March 13, the Subcommittee heard from Brian Shea, Director of the Montgomery County Child Support Administration. He spoke on the privatization sites, the demonstration sites, and other CSEA initiatives.

Custody Subcommittee

At its February 25 meeting, the Custody Subcommittee reviewed House Bill 1062 – Best Interest of Children Act of 2002. The Subcommittee was generally supportive of portions of the bill that provided guidance on child-custody decision-making. The Subcommittee preferred that the bill be withdrawn to permit the development of a more comprehensive pilot program in Baltimore City to implement the case management practices which the bill was designed to promote. Judge Albert Matriciani, Jr., testified at a hearing on March 5. The bill was subsequently withdrawn.

continued on p. 8

- **CINS Legislation.** The Committee met with Judge Philip T. Caroom to review draft legislation that would modify the CINS statute. The Committee supported Judge Caroom's suggestion



PRO SE DEMOGRAPHICS

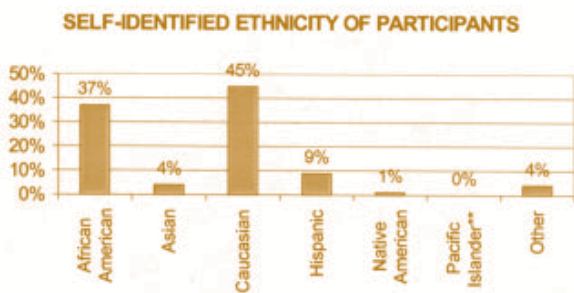
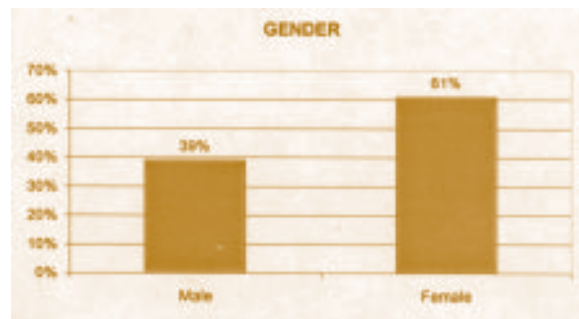
Last June, clerks, court administrators, family division administrators and family support services coordinators met with Family Administration and JIS staff to plan for enhanced data collection. An effort was made to begin collecting pro se appearance data, as well as demographic information relating to pro se litigants and participants in the co-parenting education courses.

It will take some time before we have verified, accurate data on pro se appearances, but initial results are promising. Karen Winters, of JIS, and Jennifer

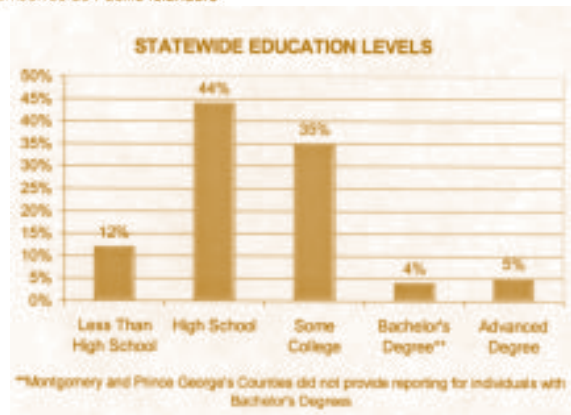
Keiser have been troubleshooting procedural and technical issues to resolve any inaccuracies.

In the meantime, we are beginning to get reliable demographic data on these programs. As an example, and in the interest of encouraging those of you involved in collecting this data, an analysis of the demographic data for pro se assistance programs gathered in the first and second quarters is provided below. This information is valuable and will help us understand who we are serving in these programs, and whether we need to adjust program policies or practices.

Individuals Receiving Assistance from Maryland Pro Se Assistance Projects FY02, 1st and 2nd Quarters (July - Dec 2001)



**7 individuals out of 8,109 identified themselves as Pacific Islanders



Foster Care Court Improvement Project (FCCIP) Update

In January 2002, President George Bush signed a bill extending the Safe and Stable Families Act which reauthorizes funding through fiscal year 2006 for court improvement programs around the country. The Honorable Robert M. Bell was called upon to lend his support of this reauthorization. The reauthorization will enable the Maryland court improvement program to implement the recommendations that have yet to be completed and evaluate what has been implemented thus far. The FCCIP is fully staffed and ready to embark upon a new phase of its program.

CINA Subcommittee

The CINA Subcommittee spearheaded three bills that provided clarifying amendments to the CINA statute. These bills, Senate Bill 394, and House Bills 968 and 970, were supported by the major stakeholders in the child welfare and court system. Stay tuned for a full legislative update in the next issue.

The CINA Subcommittee has continued to revise the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) statute.



Drafts of the bill will be disseminated statewide for feedback. It is projected to be forwarded to Chief Judge Bell by the end of the summer for approval for submission during the 2003 legislative session.

Representation Subcommittee

The Representation Subcommittee has a new chair, the Honorable Katherine Savage, Circuit Court for Montgomery County. The Honorable Patrick L. Woodward handed over the reins to this subcommittee because of his new responsibility chairing the Statistics Subcommittee.

The Representation Subcommittee is in the process of reviewing its original recommendations to ascertain whether they have been completed and/or fully implemented. One of the major accomplishments of the Representation Subcommittee was the development of the *Guidelines of Advocacy for Attorneys Representing Children in CINA and Related TPR and Adoption Cases*. With the assistance of the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, the Representation Subcommittee disseminated a brief survey to judges and masters who hear the foster care cases to evaluate whether the *Guidelines* have made a difference in the quality of legal representation for children.

Statistics Subcommittee

As mentioned earlier, Judge Woodward is now the chair of the revamped Statistics Subcommittee. Master Peter Tabatsko, Circuit Court in Carroll County, is the vice-chair. Focus for this new subcommittee will be on the quality assurance aspect of data collection, which entails enhancing or implementing the modified version of the Maryland Automated Judicial Information for Children (MAJIC) in Balti-

continued on next page

FCCIP Update, cont. from p. 6

more City, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, as well as overseeing the transition of MAJIC to the UCS Juvenile module in the other jurisdictions.

In addition to distributing the standard monthly reports, the FCCIP has begun to provide periodic "snapshots" to the local jurisdictions on the processing of various activities of their court's CINA and related TPR and adoption cases. These reports should better assist the AOC and the local jurisdictions in spotting trends, good case processing practices, as well as problem areas.



Training Subcommittee

The Training Subcommittee is planning the 5th Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Judicial Conference which is scheduled for October 7-8, 2002. This year the conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Solomons, Maryland. Registration materials have been forwarded to all judges and masters who hear or will be hearing CINA and related cases. Persons from other disciplines will be invited to attend the second day of the conference. The Training Subcommittee is also planning its 2003 Judicial Institute course entitled "CINA for the Beginner." Stay tuned for more details.

TPR Workgroup

The TPR Workgroup has been focused on reducing the TPR backlog in various jurisdictions. Several of the needed resources are dependent upon State resources that were requested within the Judiciary budget. As of the writing of this article, this legislation is still pending.

One improvement that will be made is the use of a parent locator litany form that has been developed by the TPR Workgroup. This form will be forwarded to the local jurisdictions to assist the judges and masters in identifying and locating absent parents on the front end of a case.

FRIENDLY REMINDER CORNER

There have been several changes made in the child welfare arena in the last few years. These changes have been made on the federal, state, and local levels. The following questions pose as friendly reminders of a few of the changes that should be implemented throughout the State:

- 1) Pursuant to the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article §3-805 and §3-806, has a judge in your jurisdiction been designated as the juvenile judge? Are the designated juvenile judges communicating with each other before transferring cases to another jurisdiction?
- 2) Pursuant to the December 29, 2000 Administrative Order Governing Orientation on Initial Assignment or Appointment as Juvenile Judge or Master, have all judges and masters appointed or assigned to juvenile court since December 29, 2000 completed the Initial Assignment/Orientation Program?

For questions or further clarification regarding these reminders, please feel free to contact Althea R. Stewart Jones, Esq., (410) 260-1296 or Tracy Watkins-Tribbitt at (410) 260-1272.

Anne Arundel Juvenile Drug Court, cont. from p.

1

for the Court had been underway for about one year. Others involved in the planning process were Dr. Curt Toler, Chair of the Anne Arundel County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and other Council members. Judge Greene has since been elevated to the Court of Special Appeals. His successor, the Honorable Joseph P. Manck, will continue to work to ensure the Drug Court's success.

John Fullmer, an addictions specialist with many years experience in criminal justice systems, was hired to facilitate implementation of the Juvenile Drug Court for Anne Arundel County. As the Program Coordinator, Mr. Fullmer will supervise three treatment specialists who will provide individual treatment plans, education, mental health, substance abuse, family and intensive individual counseling on a 24-hour basis. The three court-employed treatment specialists will work with two dedicated counselors from the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide services to approximately 50 youth.

The primary goals of the Juvenile Drug Court are to:

- reduce substance abuse;
- reduce recidivism;
- increase school attendance/performance; and
- improve family functioning.

In addition to supervising a team of treatment specialists, Mr. Fullmer's role includes serving as the liaison for the Drug Court Team, which is led by the Honorable Pamela North. The other team members include representatives from the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the county school system. Judge North's first Juvenile Drug Court case was heard March 27th of this year.



John Fullmer, Program Coordinator

Family Law Committee Update, cont. from p. 4

Domestic Violence Subcommittee

The Domestic Violence Subcommittee continues to provide guidance to the Family Law Committee regarding domestic violence issues impacting the judiciary. The subcommittee serves as a clearinghouse for existing services and information, as well as a forum for emerging issues in the area of domestic violence. Recent accomplishments of the subcommittee include, but are not limited to, the development of a Full Faith and Credit benchcard that provides a concise and comprehensive overview of the procedures for handling out-of-state protective orders. Additionally, the subcommittee is providing oversight for

revising the Judge's and Clerk's manuals on domestic violence. For further information regarding the subcommittee and its endeavors, please contact Debra Bright at 410-260-1428.

Juvenile Subcommittee

A meeting of the Juvenile Subcommittee was held on February 19, 2002. The Subcommittee discussed and reviewed 18 bills. The Subcommittee plans to review the portions of the *Performance Standards* that apply to the juvenile area and make recommendations on implementation to the larger committee.

New Family Faces

New Master Joins Baltimore City

Theresa Furnari is the newest master to join the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Although a native of Baltimore, her life experiences are far from provincial. After completing an undergraduate degree at Frostburg State University, Master Furnari served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia in West Africa. She returned to the States to attend law school at Tulane University in New Orleans.

As an attorney, Master Furnari worked with Venable, Baetjer and Howard as a tax associate, and later with the Department of Social Services. She left to pursue a career in private practice, focusing on children and families. Her work included serving as a contractual children's attorney in CINA cases. She is a skilled mediator and has served as a mediator trainer.

When she is not working, Master Furnari enjoys spending time with her large Italian/Irish family (she is one of six children). She enjoys traveling and has traveled to Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. She also enjoys outdoor activities including sailing, tennis, bicycling, and hiking.



Master Theresa Furnari

**Is there a new member of your family division or family services team whom others should know?
Please send bios and photos, if available, to the Dept. of Family Administration for inclusion in this section of *Family Matters*.**

Events Elsewhere

Association of Family & Conciliation Courts National Conference

June 5-8, 2002 Big Island of Hawaii 608-251-4001

National Conference on Children and the Law. *Sponsored by the ABA Center on Children and the Law.*

June 6-8, 2002 Washington, DC 202-662-1721

Victimization of Children and Youth: An International Research Conference

August 4-7, 2002 Portsmouth, NH 603-862-0767

XII International Congress on Family Law

September 20-28, 2002 Havana, Cuba 537-32-6209

Around Maryland



Carroll County

The Circuit Court for Carroll County welcomes Crystal Mack, Domestic Violence Court Services Coordinator. She is located in Room 220B, Courthouse Annex in the Circuit Court for Carroll County. Her office hours will be from 8:30 to 3:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday hours will be from 8:30 to noon. The Coordinator will help Petitioners fill out paperwork, refer people to additional services, and provide follow-up for court ordered services such as anger management and supervised visitation.

Powel Welliver was recently honored by Family and Children's Services for the creation of the Carroll County Supervised Visitation and Monitored Exchange Program. Congratulations, Powel!

Frederick County

In conjunction with the Frederick County Mental Health Association, the Circuit Court for Frederick County will add supervised visitation to their list of services available to parties in domestic cases.

St. Mary's County

The Circuit Court has a new program entitled "Communication and Relationship Intervention." The Circuit Court for St. Mary's County and the Family Services Office is devoted to assisting parents in the resolution of conflicts through positive means. Specifically, the Master's Office wants to provide immediate assistance by having a therapist available during the Master's docket. The therapist provides immediate attention to custody and visitation cases involving conflict in parental relationships to help them overcome the personal reasons for the separation and/or divorce and focus more on the impact the separation has on children. A therapist from the Center for Children provides short-term, therapeutic services on-site at the Courthouse.

Washington County

The Family Services Program is working on establishing a monitored exchange program with the Children's Rights Counsel. Projected start date is July 1, 2002 or sooner.

www.courts.state.md.us/family

family matters

**We welcome your comments and contributions.
Please call or write: Pamela Cardullo Ortiz, Exec. Dir.
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Leveraging Resources with Local Talent

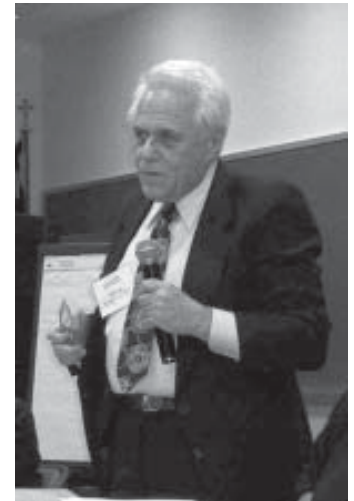
“If you feed them, they will come,” advised Anne Turner to a group of forty-four judges, clerks, coordinators and court staff gathered for a half-day seminar on February 7th entitled *Enhancing Case Management Through the Use of Volunteers*. Presenters, including Anne Turner, family support services coordinator at the Circuit Court for Worcester County, shared their insights on how to design and manage effective volunteer-based programs.

Featured Programs

The agenda highlighted several successful programs in use in both circuit and District Courts that make use of volunteers. Featured programs included Prince George’s Co. Circuit Court’s pro se project which relies on volunteer attorneys, Anne Arundel County’s family law facilitator program, the Protective Order Advocacy Representation Programs (POARP), and the District Court’s use of volunteer mediators on the day of trial.

Judge Ellen Heller, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, described the history of that court’s successful civil settlement conference program. That program, which began with 90 attorneys, has had benefits for both the court and its

volunteers. Attorneys serving as settlement conference officers have an opportunity to observe experienced counsel at work. The court has worked with the city’s law schools, as well as MACRO, to provide special training opportunities each year for attorney volunteers. Longtime volunteer, Alvin Sellman, shared tales of his experience handling settlements, a service he has provided the court since the program’s inception 12 years ago.



*Alvin Sellman, Esq.,
long-time volunteer*

Sponsors

The course was sponsored by the Department of Family Administration in conjunction with the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc (PBRC). The event itself was organized by Sharon Goldsmith, Executive Director of PBRC. Both organizations will be working on the implementation of those portions of the Pro Bono Commission Report which were adopted by the Court of Appeals in February. *Enhancing Case Management through the Use of Volunteers* was intended to help courts recognize that they perform a “service” when they create opportunities for members of the Bar and others to serve the public—and they can improve case management as well.



*Left to Right: Dorothy Lennig, Legal Director, House of Ruth;
Tracy Brown, Exec. Dir., Women’s Law Center; and
Jonathan Smith, Exec. Dir., Public Justice Center.)*
photos by Pamela C. Ortiz

Department of Family Administration

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CHECK IT OUT!

The Family Administration website (www.courts.state.md.us/family) is undergoing an expansion and update. We are adding pages for juvenile issues, committee updates and enhanced domestic violence information. In addition, each jurisdiction's page has been reviewed and brought current. Give us some feedback and suggestions! If there is anything you would like to see at our website let us know. Contact Jennifer Keiser at 410-260-1580 or e-mail at jennifer.keiser@courts.state.md.us.



mark your calendar . . .

May 6, 2002	Family Law Committee Meeting	Pamela Ortiz, 410-260-1580
May 7, 2002	FCCIP Statistics Oversight Subcommittee Meeting	Tracy Watkins-Tribett, 410-260-1272
May 16, 2002	St. Mary's 24th Annual Child Welfare Day	Linda Grove, 301-475-4689
May 29, 2002	Coordinator's Meeting (<i>note changed date</i>)	Pamela Ortiz, 410-260-1580
June 3, 2002	Family Law Committee Meeting	Pamela Ortiz 410-260-1580
June 5, 2002	Domestic Violence Strangulation Investigations: "Never Let a Victim Die in Vain." Baltimore. <i>Sponsored by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.</i>	Don Flanders or Dave Sargeant 301-352-4574
Sept. 14, 2002	Dedication of Balt. City Juvenile Justice Center	Dale Hendrick, 410-396-8101
Oct. 7-8, 2002	5th Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference	Althea Stewart Jones 410-260-1296